



Premier, Hon André Ebanks
Renaming of Radio Cayman Building
6 March 2026

Mister Speaker,

2026 marks 50 years since Radio Cayman first began broadcasting in these Cayman Islands. What began as an idea, blossomed into a beacon of culture, a pillar of our community, and a common connector for these three islands. Who knows if those former Members of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council of blessed memory who took the bold decision to bring Radio Cayman to life had any inkling what a legacy they would be creating?

Mister Speaker, I am sure Members on both sides of this Chamber will join me in congratulating our beloved Radio Cayman on this milestone anniversary. 50 years is an outstanding achievement which we will be celebrating throughout 2026, and why not? For Radio Cayman belongs to the people of West Bay, George Town, Bodden Town, North Side, East End, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. And now that Radio Cayman has its own app for streaming and is on YouTube and Facebook, it belongs to Caymanians living anywhere in the world.



Mister Speaker, behind every great institution there are great people, whose sacrifice, dedication, vision, energy and vigour shape the direction that the organisation takes;

People who toil tirelessly behind the scenes believing where others doubt, striving where others shrivel and standing tall when others fall away. It is upon their shoulders that institutions are built and legacies left behind for future generations.

With your permission Mister Speaker, on behalf of the Government and People of the Cayman Islands, I would like to express gratitude to one very special builder of this institution, Mr. Locksley Banks, former Director of Broadcasting at Radio Cayman who is today seated in the gallery of this House of Parliament.

Mister Speaker, while not giving away too many state secrets, it is hard to believe that before many of us in these hallowed halls were born, or perhaps were still in primary school, Mr. Banks was beavering away in the Radio Cayman building.



Mr. Banks was instrumental in establishing and advancing broadcasting in the Cayman Islands, ensuring that radio not only entertained but also served as a vital tool for communication, particularly in times of crisis.

He was there during the setup and first broadcast, eventually ascending to Director of Broadcasting at Radio Cayman from 1980 until his retirement in 2006, and is an employee emeritus of Radio Cayman (and he still shows up there many mornings at 7am, to conduct research and prepare for the programmes he still hosts). Throughout his career Mr. Banks introduced numerous innovative programmes and initiatives that informed, connected, and enriched the Caymanian community.

Under his leadership, Radio Cayman became an essential public service, a role that was most clearly demonstrated during major hurricanes in 1988 and 2004, when Mr. Banks' efforts to maintain critical communications saved lives and provided reassurance during national emergencies. Beyond his professional achievements, he was a dedicated mentor whose guidance shaped the careers of many who went on to contribute significantly to the field of broadcasting.



Mister Speaker, Radio Cayman's role in supporting democracy cannot be overstated. Broadcasts of proceedings of the House of Parliament have kept our people informed and all of us as Members have access to speak to our people.

Even the Opposition has the ability to go on the air and share their viewpoints, even if they are critical of the Government of the day. This speaks to the maturity of our democracy and to the way Radio Cayman serves as a public square. And of course, broadcasts of political meetings, campaigns and candidate forums during election season assists our citizens in making an informed choice. All of this was established under Mr. Banks' stewardship.

Even after retirement, Mr. Banks continues to share his passion for history and culture with the public. His weekly radio show "YesterYear Musical" on BREEZE FM, along with his historical and cultural series "CI Retro" on Radio Cayman 1, reflect his lifelong commitment to preserving Caymanian heritage and fostering a deeper sense of identity and community connection.



The Caymanian broadcaster also worked on US radio stations and the US Armed Forces Radio and Television network.

Mister Speaker, Mr. Locksley Banks' career in broadcasting spans 60 years, and in 2024 he was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by His Majesty the King for services to broadcasting in the Cayman Islands.

Mister Speaker, no one can think of Radio Cayman without thinking of Mr. Banks. Every one of us in here have sat at his feet and learned from his encyclopaedic memory about our own Caymanian heritage and history. We cannot begin to thank Mr. Banks for all that he has done to awaken the Caymanian consciousness and awareness. He has never used his media platform or voice to harm others. He's used it only to uplift his nation and his people. Whether he agreed with you or not, he treated you with courtesy, respect and with a truly Christlike character.



Of course Mister Speaker, while he is deeply loved across these Cayman Islands, he is of course one of the finest sons of the Republic of West Bay, which puts his continuing, active association with the Veterans Association and the Seafarers Association very much into context.

So Mister Speaker, it gives me great joy in announcing to the people of the Cayman Islands and to this honourable House, that as a result of Mr. Banks' significant contributions in broadcasting and his many years of public service to the people of the Cayman Islands, it is fitting to preserve the legacy of this iconic, Caymanian broadcaster by naming the building which houses Radio Cayman in his honour.

The Cabinet has therefore approved that the Radio Cayman Building will herein and thereafter be known as the Loxley Banks Broadcasting Centre, which is abbreviated "LBBC".



Mister Speaker, this is truly a special day not just for Mr. Banks and his family, but also for the Radio Cayman team, represented here today by the current Director Ms. Norma McField and some of her senior staff, as well as the Cabinet Secretary, who is the Chief Officer with responsibility for Radio Cayman and his team. They have been charged with organising a renaming ceremony for the building which, Mister Speaker, has been undergoing some much-needed refurbishment, both outside and inside.

I am certain my colleagues will join me in offering our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Banks, and that we can put our hearts and minds together to ensure that we build upon Mr. Banks' firm foundation as we look to the next 50 years.

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